

South Bay / Food Finders Cooperative

**California Integrated Waste
Management Board
Food Diversion Summit
October 23, 2002**

FOOD FINDERS



The Connection that makes a difference

What is Food Finders?

A 13 year old, non-profit Organization

The Network is comprised of:

- **Donors (Food Service Industry)**
- **Recipients (Non-Profit Agencies that serve the community's many needs)**
- **Volunteers – provide the connection between the Donors and Recipients**

Providing Food for 27,000 meals a day

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How Does it Work?

- FF picks up food overages from Donors, on a schedule that is convenient for them
- FF Volunteers or paid Employees deliver food directly to Recipients on routine routes and “on call” routes
- Recipient Agencies use the donated food to increase their food supply and supplement their food budgets

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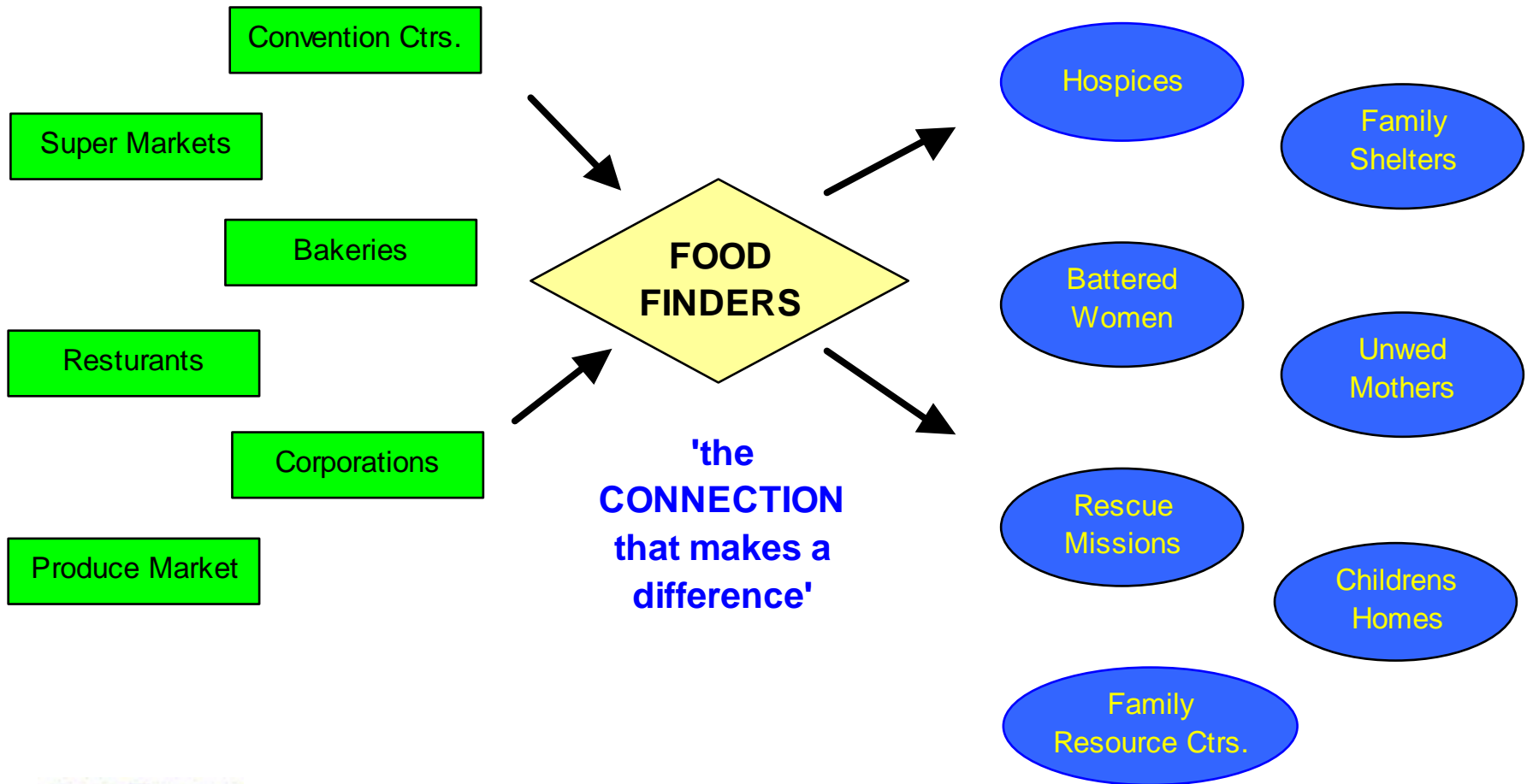


Food Finders

Food Distribution Network

DONORS

RECIPIENTS



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Food Resources

- **Grocery Stores**
- **Restaurants**
- **Bakeries**
- **Food Manufacturers**
- **Hotels**
- **Convention Centers**
- **Caterers**
- **Distributors**
- **Growers**

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Liability

Good Samaritan Law

Liability Insurance

Safe Food Handling

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Safe Food Handling

Perishable Food

- Proper Temperature
- Timely Delivery
- Inspection of canned food

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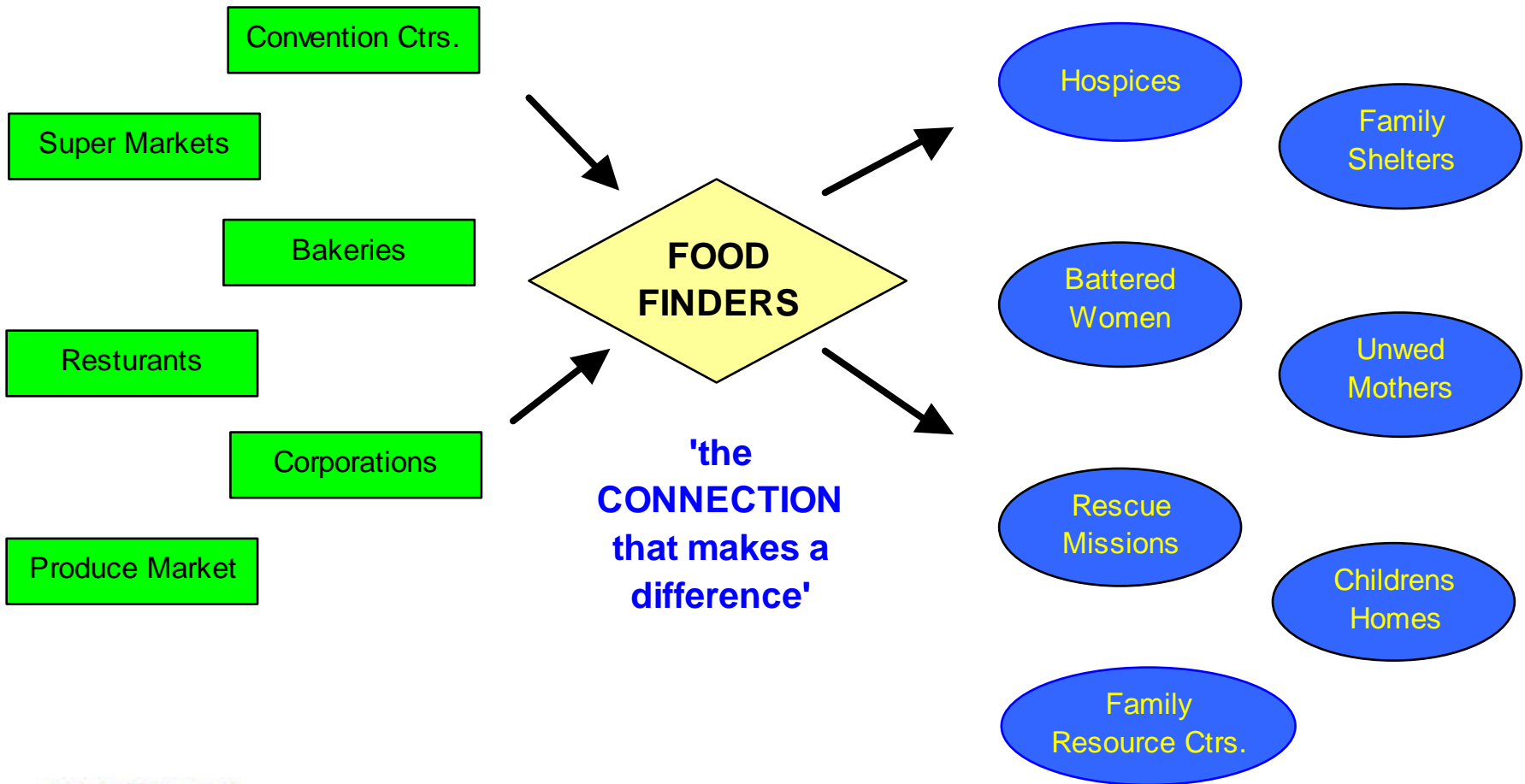
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Need

People in need

- Battered and abandoned Children and Women
- Seniors on low fixed income
- Working Poor
- Homeless
- Recovering Substance Abusers
- Mentally or Physically Disabled
- Sick and Dieing

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Benefits to the Community

- The FF Connection **ENABLES** individuals to help their less fortunate neighbors
- The needy population is provided food, free of charge, and agencies can focus funds on remedial services.
- Enables companies and cities to reduce waste going to landfills

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Benefits to Businesses

- The FF connection becomes an integral part of the business, by enabling the business to improve sales without generating excessive waste or inventory.
- The business's waste management costs are reduced.
- Supports compliance with the California Waste Management Law.

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Rossmoor Pastries

“It doesn’t hurt the business; in fact, it helps. We bake a little more and our late afternoon business is better because customers like coming into a well-stocked store” says Charles Feder, Co-Owner of Rossmoor Pastries

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Waste Management

Sixteen Per Cent of all California Waste is Food

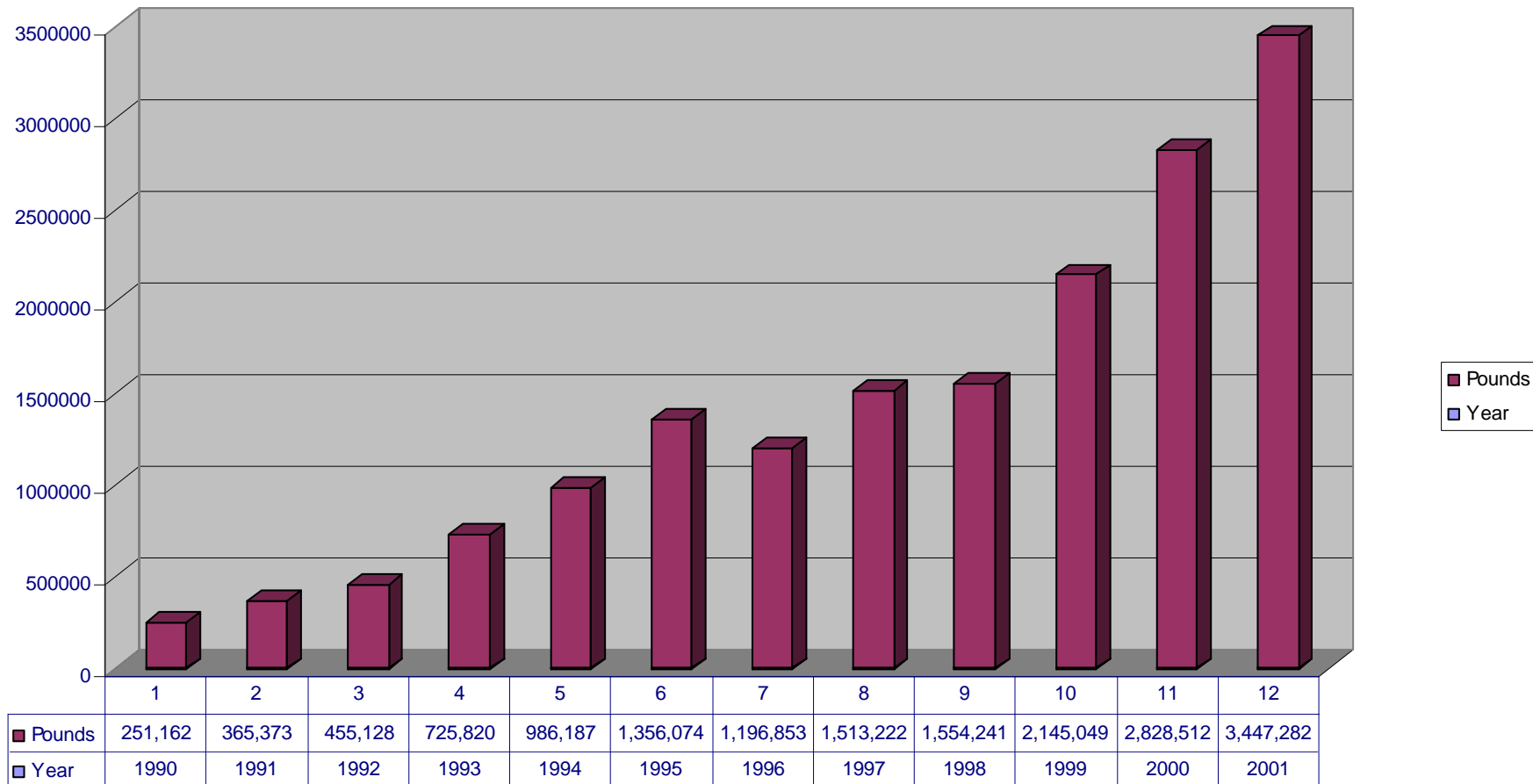
- Divert wholesome food from the dump sites
- Provide nourishment for poverty stricken individuals

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Pounds of Food Provided



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The Wholesale Connection

- Initially FF only solicited donors from the local retail community
- Eventually connections were made to the produce distribution brokers and warehouses and to food manufacturers
- This required larger vehicles and qualified employees to drive them

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FF Fleet

FF Fleet

- Two refrigerated trucks
- Four vans

Volunteers Vehicles

- Three hundred twenty five

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The Great Potato Caper

**42,000 pounds of
Oregon Potatoes**

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Wholesale Connection

- To maximize the effectiveness of the program to the wholesaler, FF pick-ups must become an integral part of daily business life.
- This ensures that the business can maximize sales and at the same time control inventory and reduce waste management costs.

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Collaborating

Form Funding Partnerships

- CA Integrated Waste Management
- CA Health and Human Services
- Cities
- Other Non-Profits

Resource Sharing Partnerships

- Donors
- Volunteers

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Funding Sources

- **Grant Writing**
 - Government
 - Foundations
 - Corporations
 - Organizations
- **Individuals**
- **Churches**
- **Retail Store**

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Finders Keepers

- In 2001, FF received the Boeing 'Crystal Vision Award' for \$25,000 as seed money to provide a permanent facility.
- A retail and office complex on Atlantic Avenue in Long Beach was located.
- Hundreds of individuals from Boeing, Toyota, Christmas in April and the community at large helped refurbish the building.

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**FINDERS
KEEPERS**
OF THE TREASURE

3434



Finders Keepers

- In November, 2001 the building was dedicated and opened.
- The building houses offices for the FF staff and volunteers plus a retail store that provides a source of funds for the program.
- Finders Keepers sells antiques, collectables and furniture donated by Levitz, individuals and estates.



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Recipient Benefits

- **Surveyed Recipients indicate that the unique benefits of the FF approach are:**
 - **Food received free of charge**
 - **Food delivered to their door step**
 - **They can then focus funds on their program to move people out of dependence**

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Community Benefits

- The FF *Connection* turns a \$1 donation into \$15 of delivered value to the community

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Keys to Success

Integrity

Professionalism

Record Keeping

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